

Vol. 5 No. 9


September 13 - October 11, 1996

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Giants converging in communications

•• By CHRISTOPHER GALT ••

By 1997, Canadian consumers will be able to use their telephone lines to watch television or movies and use their cable TV service back up to the Net or place a call.

This convergence of communications technologies is the result of the federal regulator's early decision to allow cable-TV and phone companies to compete in each other's markets.

"The object of the exercise is to protect choice to produce technological innovation as well as to bring about lower prices to consumers," said Industry Minister John Manley shortly after the government's announcement.

Unquestionably close to what Canadians will get already some of the country's largest telephone networks including Bell are examining the viability of bundling services into consumer packages that would include phone service, Net links and video-on-demand.

Meanwhile, cable-TV companies are experimenting with sending video along copper telephone lines and moving from one-way analogue service to two-way digital. High-resolution offerings to achieve their competitive goals, both companies' stock prices could not look very far off finding a technological helping hand.

Several Canadian high-tech companies are already developing and marketing complete cable-plus services. For instance, Northern Telecom Inc. will network to phone and cable companies in the United States and British Columbia. South Norwedge Networks Corp. and Bell Communications Inc. design high-speed networks used to connect video, data and video signals.

Quirk

However, despite the availability and affordability of convergence technology, the industry is leery about what consumers will actually pay. They have to adapt their traditional services. Before you get to watch television through your phone line you might have to pay \$1,000 to accommodate video-on-demand service. Similarly, to enjoy your cable TV line with phone-NET service you might have to pay \$500.

Nevertheless, the major players in this intensely competitive communications game are not their pricing. Bell is currently seeking a protocol from the Canadian Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission to begin testing their 200x/300x/100x video-on-demand service line. Much in London, Ontario and Regency, Quebec. ♦

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In document in which he studied the link between child criminal activity and a programme's desirable features, control Governmental Citizenship Research Inc. which created Orion the video "75 per cent of serial killers operate as their own hardware."

The RCMP in Vancouver are poised to incorporate Bionics tracking systems into their own criminal investigations. They are looking in Orion as a way to reduce their own tracking errors. RCMP/Guarda Crime Lodge Institute system which was also developed in British Columbia.

Why Orion price of the mathematics

linked prophetic data to link criminal mind state. VCLAI correlates crimes by other characteristics such as age and gender.

Live Olympic "reicast" attracts attention for BC firm

By STEVE BARN & Co

During the Atlanta Olympic 1996's a small Vancouver based company provided what they describe as a "bionic" view of the proceedings via the Internet. It was a live video-casting technique called "reicast."

Using popular software from the company's

Web site (<http://www.bionics.com>), visitors were able to view ceremonies with sports celebrities including: Shugart, O'Neil, Scarle, Pippin, Roger Federer and Evander Holyfield.

Only a year old, Bionics already has a following of 11 and down from a pool of 70 subscribers.

The technology isn't new but the company's perspective is.

In the extreme

The majority of our sales comes in the most extreme on computer sports," says marketing director Barry Bourke. Canada's live sports are set up with Bionics'perspective.

Remember the Women's Miller and Tony Anderson and have surely followed together through contact to broadcast a 24-hour coverage sports channel on the Internet.

"Last time, we've been concentrating on events such as basketball, figure skating, and events in other parts of the world. We're trying to find out how to make available through any other media source as this is not a simple thing directly with national like television."

The technique uses video-casting technology software including Windows, Netcom, America Online and Chatline. With users simply get their players click on a video was a live set

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cash, and begins to receive our "break-a-way" system. (Note: This setup takes about a 10 to 15 second half-hour period, it starts moving up video in 30 sec. Once it reaches up, you can see the screen.)

Watch out, B!

But in most cases competing with television at exactly what experts who study these things say is happening instead of spending hours doing a power television screen study course, we are going for now on the World Wide Web where content and content are completely

at the very dawn Web viewing, users can choose to view live broadcast video feed or video, to view an archived video of that video.

And their 24-hour live television channel is broadcasted the company keeps busy watching with live companies in video solution service providers, the company says. (Note: "Because of our partnership with Digital Perspective Corporation in the Atlanta Olympic we were attracting business from agencies who already have connections to our customers. We were able to take these



customers and put them into our live feed. We're 24-hour channel we're trying to keep in a spreading live through 21 sec. advertising (Note: during a 24-hour advertising week time 7:00 p.m. We don't want to put more on live at the same time we don't want to have to stop, users that are in the early stage of a work in a broadcast mode.)

It is, basically, looking in terms of generally, says Lewis. But it's been a long lead and he's right now we're getting video from a company in a U.S. City of Toronto, and we're doing all the work done in terms of business. It is among the number of 10 companies who are interested in putting video on their Web site."

So the fourth says the company has worked on the Internet for the past and even did a lot of work with Toronto. And although it's not up yet they're now built a Web site for the Toronto City Club, the most popular area of which will likely be the leadback feature.

BC apartment hunting hits the Web

•• By STEVE GAN ••

If ever a word of evading from the end of the city to the other in a housing search for a suitable home, or apartment to rent the task has just gotten a little easier—provided you have Internet access, of course.

At Renters' Guide, which most of us know as one of the many free bulletin boards in the newspaper sector at the local convenience or as searched a new World Wide Web site, (http://www.rentersguide.bc.ca), we (http://www.rentersguide.bc.ca) are looking for a better available rental properties in various areas in the province. The list is available free of charge to anyone with Internet access—whether you are a landlord with an available property or a tenant in need of accommodations. Ads remain active for 30 days from date of placement on the site. They can be listed in photos in.

The Web site is designed of various accommodation searches for city and neighbor hood, and results may be displayed and sorted by rental type or date posted. While renters may also choose to use more advanced search

features including defining the number of bedrooms in bedrooms, the type of accommodation (house, apartment, semi-detached, etc.) and in city and specific details about the living arrangements (e.g. 2 or 3 bedrooms, 1 or 2 bathrooms, etc.)

Find search results that yield more specific information about listed properties. Including availability, rental cost, special features such as physical proximity to public transportation, shopping and schools as well as other information such as telephone, faxing, Internet and e-mail, the Landlord's phone number.

Anybody home?

Visitors to the site will find the service simple to use, but may be disappointed by the sparse number of listings currently found in each of the categories which will likely remain until the site matures.

Areas in search of the Internet include: Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler and the Lower Mainland. Although the number of listings in these cities is divided into its own website, neighborhood areas in the province, the Vancouver area is broken down into 20 sub-city neighborhoods, while Victoria into 10. As demand grows, the site will be expanding to include other areas as needed.

This convenient Internet housing Web site is not only aimed at local residents looking to change their current living arrangements, but will also appeal to potential out-of-town and down from any part of the country or even the world. The fact that British Columbia also has a number of offices for a good portion of potential and international immigrants makes the perfect opportunity for a Web site.

For accommodation seekers who don't have Internet access, information on the site can be accessed through a phone-in or letter service for a fee. To reach the BC Renters' Guide by phone, call (604) 475-2125 or contact the company by mail at 1980 Bear Street, Victoria BC V8N 3X6.

The company says it is dedicated to providing the guide in a free service to potential tenants and landlords. But maintaining the site is costly and time-consuming. Anyways, while to promote the site (advertised in various newspapers) time should consider the website's future goals. ■

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Ravelling on the Web

Personal information on Web sites is a way of letting consumers access financial and account information where they want to refer than during traditional banking hours.

QUEST SYSTEMS Communications based in Toronto has helped TD Bank, Canadian Trust, Bank of Montreal and Citibank build and maintain Web banking services. These sophisticated Web processes in addition to allowing consumers to access financial information, for example Bank of Montreal Web offers daily account balance transactions on its popular Web site.

Rather than set up or control new Web sites, these services allow consumers to have opened their own cyberbank. The Hudson's Bay Co. has moved into Web's online mall World Avenue, where shoppers can buy an array of goods using secure transactions. World Avenue's launch president of Hudson's Bay Co. continues about overall sales expectations for his decorated the Internet as the

main driver of retail shopping.

If you're a small company that wants to do business on the Internet, with the biggest you should know it's not cheap to join a service cyberbank. Hudson's Bay will pay \$M 342,000 to join World Avenue and stick in another \$100 per month plus a per cent of sales.

For smaller companies that will not be supported at the Web by corporations, they have found Qualifications' per cent. Later companies are pushing the technology envelope and are now moving to secure access to Internet Web site. Another business will find it costly to sell goods and not visit online.

In some instances, they want to have to worry about collecting credit card payments because that will be done by financial services providers (FSPs).

This should prove to be a boon for small businesses who can't afford the services offered by Canadian banks because they can pay for embedded transaction screen where card payments are not required. To obtain merchant accounts, they can use the Net (or by direct sales) Canadian businesses are expected to look up to \$10,000 per month. While Microsoft, IBM and Netscape have joined forces with Visa and

MasterCard to create a secure electronic tender (SET) system for online transactions, other companies are working to act as brokers for shoppers and online retail on first Virtual Internet Payment System uses a code system representing credit card numbers that enables card holders to confirm sales.

Other companies have combined their Web site with 1-800 or toll free phone system to use the combination of a company's Web site, Internet capabilities, "clicking" consumer goods on the Web but use telephone payment methods approved by the bank of Montreal and MasterCard.

Home on the Web

When it comes to conducting business on the Internet, many home-based entrepreneurs are embracing high-tech payment methods and relying on good old cash delivery.

Steve Furs (www.furs.com) from which site sells his Pacific clothing, credits his mail order Web sales of his T-shirts and shirts which with results on a mail address, and CDMA kit, according to them, have been slow. Furs is not discouraged. The site is the frequency and word of mouth is what he had.

An Dean Hopkins, founder of eShopping points out "The Net has be-

come the playing field for small businesses. It puts them on equal footing with every other company—large or small—that has a Web site. Even so, he admits most companies viewing online through Web sales are serving a niche market usually a computer-related.

One of the first online Canadian companies to open the business was Open Access. Open Access simply points and click their way to view business software, new products, and services and choose their purchase by adding items to a personal "shopping cart."

"There has been a lot of debate whether or not commerce will ever have a place on the Internet," says Open president and cofounder Phil Belkoff. "I don't mean to sit around thinking. I want to lead you follow." Software engineer Eric, located in Beaumont, Ontario, also with computer software and hardware across Canada and around the world via the Web. The company offers shoppers 20,000 products on its Web site. Using the Internet will allow us to build a big business into a big headquarters," says Jim Decker, a software online pioneer who believes service is more important to his success than the size of a company's office space.



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Feature

The new reality of conducting business on the Web also includes export opportunities. Domestic law sold software to consumers in the early in the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

The world's the best

Export opportunities exist if companies are foreign-based businesses, says Jeff Hulse, vice president, Canadian Exporters Association of Ontario.

Because of free trade and global competition, companies have to be "good enough to stand up in the world market, not just compete in their own back yard." And since they have to be globally competitive to survive in their local market, Hulse suggests they look at exporting as a means to expand their business especially if they have developed niche products or service expertise.

But experts will not agree just because a company has a product and is able to set up a Web site. Hulse cautions: "High-tech is a help but it is not a substitute for building relationships and understanding cultures."

Toshiba's On The Net Inc. has created a Web site to help smaller businesses establish the relationships in which they thrive.

After Canadian products and services don't reach foreign markets because Canadian companies are not "ready" says David Sauter, On Line president.

While the online gold may thus be being primarily in a small area and larger companies, smaller companies are enthusiastically taking their share on the Web and expanding.

only paying for their share of the online gold available in their three cybercities. *

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14" MONITOR

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ANDREW COCHRAN

• By CHRISTOPHER CLAY •

Bringing television to the Net (& vice versa)



To some extent we are today where the Internet where we were in the 1950s with television," says Andrew Cochran, over the telephone from his studio office.

"With the advent of television, something like 15 per cent of households owned a TV set. Today about 75 per cent use the Internet at least in North America. In the 1950s people would huddle around a television set and watch the test patterns. Today people are trying to figure out the test pattern via an Internet site."

That's about the place where Cochran found himself in the late 1980s when he bought his first Apple II computer. "I was completely controlled with the idea that I had 99k, and was excited when I could buy a disk drive to plug into it."

Accidents will happen

In fact that a decade Cochran has accidentally become one of the computer industry's leading investors as head of Cochran Entertainment and Cochran Interactive, the 44-year-old son of two famous New Yorkers (actors Michael, John and Mandy) who was the province's first female cabinet minister) a media beneficiary of television, radio, cultural politics and a pioneer of the Net's growing influence in the lives of Canadians.

Cochran has called him a "culturalist," a term in which the sophisticated culture enters before. Although he has become a Net educator with his second 1994 series on the auction site on the Internet and his broadcast on Canada's Discovery Channel and PBS in the United States this fall Cochran is essentially a pioneer.

After working as executive producer of CTV's *Canada A-Z* and the CTV National News, Cochran jumped into children's television programming and began creating out-remains of the hit CBC-TV series *Therapist* in 1986.

Witnessing the growing popularity of the Net six years later, the 25-year television veteran made *Therapist* the first WWW experiment. While conventional television viewers can expect about another 10 episodes of the program, some in 14 countries, 100 episodes in one web *Therapist* show on its own Web site. There, users can use interactive large or the big map in The Big Harbor or download a knowledge-collecting book.

Bringing out

Today *Therapist* has been listed as one of the Net's best sites for kids—no kidding. Cochran's 10-year-old son William has on the TV series found a home internationally the other version of *Therapist* has spawned other series.

Two years ago Cochran asked one of his colleagues Beth Levinson, a former filmmaker, to help create a list of recommended Net sites for kids that would appear on Cochran's home page (<http://www.cochran.com/>) which features 15 sites.

"I did a search using Alta Vista and found there were about 2,000 sites listed in the *Therapist* database page," says Cochran. "The sites were not for the series. That is, if you cannot remember more listed to find a few sites for kids."

In just a couple of years, the Net has become Cochran's best marketing tool—especially linking him across the WWW and offering glimpses of his television product to markets where the programs are not shown.

Start making cents

Where the Cochran Entertainment produced youth-oriented CBC-TV series *Star Trek* is now Agents in Cochran's business as he is the guest of a youth-oriented website.

"Web Web sites, particularly those related to the television industry, you have personal knowledge of the program," explains Cochran. "No someone in Greater South America or Australia may have no idea what *Star Trek* is. The TV product is all about—not to mention not being able to watch it—on

Profile

still studies some that it can understand from the site."

Clearly the best part of Cochran's success. Ad message of television and the Net has been that most of it was planned in a moment of creative passion the two dipped. The more established Internet pioneer has combined to the Net's audience. Although Cochran rapidly moved the union he understands the Net is no mindless beast.

"It is really all about what is going on...
ILLUSTRATION BY PAGE 22

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PENTIUM

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Know when to fold 'em: Gambling on the Net

• • BY MARGARET LUTTRELL • •

There is no doubt the Net is filled with the life of society (not an infomercial, books, movies, magazines and video combine sexualization and exploit the perils of urban life and all should be viewed with discretion. But there is now a new potential danger emerging on the World Wide Web: it is now possible for the Web to water to take part in, maintain, online gambling right from their very own desktop.

Just think about that for a moment: You can now win or lose money by betting on sports or playing blackjack/poker or even things as if you were in Vegas—but without even leaving your desk at office hours!

The overwhelming majority of the three-million-or-so Web sites dedicated to gambling are yet little more than tips and strategies for real gambling or sports betting. They can either teach you player's secrets (such as card-counting) or provide up-to-the-minute scores and statistics.

The Web sites posing questions are the ultimate gambling sites where you give them your credit-card number or set up an electronic debit account. For the most part, these potentially chaotic sites are established in places such as Belize, Bonaire, or Nassau. They can be quite hard to come by and rely heavily on word-of-mouth.

I have seen inquiries on a gambling newsgroup from a person who felt ripped off by one such organization but for some reason is unable to approach his local authorities. The craft

Is online gambling a quasi-legal business and is unregulated at this time? Is it so new that it is a gray area at best—the FBI IS.

and Justice Departments in the United States are hesitant to confirm whether Internet gambling is prohibited by law.

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PGP: Encryption for the masses

Last year marked another huge increase in the market share of notebook computers versus the traditional desktop models. With more and more people using notebooks, there is also a widespread increase in the level of unease about the data stored on them. Hard drives full of sensitive information, once safely locked in offices, are now being carried in taxis, subways, and airplanes.

• By LAWRENCE BABICHELLO •

What if the notebook is lost or stolen? While laptops, like data centers, don't contain databases and spreadsheets will not be personally sensitive data, extremely sensitive data is still out there some where on the hard drive of a missing computer. If the information falls into the hands of a thief or ends up in an insecure, unsecured notebook, purchaser your privacy and that of your business clients has been severely compromised; the results of which are potentially disastrous.

Whether you own a notebook or are just generally concerned about data privacy, you should know that there are now tools available to address this problem. One option concerns the contents of one file in a virtually custom package of tools and uses. It works on unencrypted information that are beyond the scope of the article but are almost, reliable encryption software tools.

The relevance of this is astounding—this is the first time in human history that the public has tools to ensure privacy that are stronger than the tools used by governments to invade it.

Be good

If you are interested in encryption for your business or personal use, I strongly recom-

mend that you use one of the two modifications of Philip Zimmermann's Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) for several reasons.

It has many features not available in other applications. It has been extensively peer reviewed and is widely known to be trustworthy and it is the de facto standard. If that doesn't convince you, here's another: you should also know that a free source version is available on the Internet. PGP not only allows you to use a package to encrypt and decrypt files on your own PC, Mac, or Internet account, but it also allows you to give a "public" password (or "key") to others that can be used to decrypt files that it sends that only you, with your secretized "private" password, can decrypt. "Not even the public password can be used to bring back the encrypted file."

These public keys have "fingerprints" that allow them to be verified by their owners, usually using the phone book or fax. PGP also allows you to electronically sign a file so it is encrypted or not in order that the recipient is sure that it came from you. At the other end, PGP checks the integrity of the signature to ensure that neither it nor the file attached to it has been tampered with.

You can also encrypt a single message—say a confidential memo—to a number of public keys at once. The software uses "key rings" that keep records of public and private keys and addresses, signatures. PGP even has a "trust" feature that allows the original, unencrypted file and writes over it and all the temporary files generated by PGP in order to encrypt it.

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In the largest PCF compressor files (although not quite as efficiently as dedicated compression software like PKZIP), PCF can be used with MSDOS (compress for a single or binary file).

This software is not without a few disadvantages. It won't do multiple file backup up into Pathback, MBackup, or even TRAP And in the future, I'd personally like to see PCF running as a shell around an existing word processing database or spreadsheets and doing compression on the fly so that all of my files will be automatically backed up.

The password protection built into packages like WordPerfect for Windows 2.0, MBackup, PKZIP and the like is easily broken by the way and should never be considered even remotely safe. True encryption is again restricted—the US government does not allow the software to leave the country legally with the acceptable exception of Canada considering it "secure." Moreover, no software makers would have the headache of making two versions of their applications: one for Canadian/US distribution, and another for the rest of the world.

Having a copy of PCF does not mean that your security is just in hand and you can just relax and forget about it. The software is only good if you use it regularly and even then there are other ways that someone can find a "backdoor entry" might occur a potential while it is being entered, for example. If original files may not be completely deleted leaving hidden copies. This can occur on hard drives and on databases used through the mail to always use a utility to overwrite the original files (not just mark their sectors for re-use) and to share after all those important files created by word processors and other applications.

The Norton package has one such feature as to do other utilities.

Key networks?

For further most serious security check, let's after you have read and applied the above in dependent on individual systems like those used in corporations or firms using LANs, where you log on to a network, anything stolen or recovered by

internal or external e-mail is recorded by those means and is the property of the system owner. Passwords are insecure, less so on individual versus network or wide area network from such a system. That is the privilege of the system and management.

Anything private that needs to be held on a network should be encrypted as

before sent and considered by default. The file can be stored there or emailed and while the owner of the system will have a copy of it without the password it will be indecipherable.

If you follow some basic protocols in dealing with sensitive or personal data you can at least achieve privacy that's "pretty good." ♦

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Obwohl the system worked well enough so that I could see the potential for using e-mail to keep in touch by means other than voice. And Personal Communications Services (PCS) for the next generation of cellular communications should make wireless data and faxing communications more real.



able. Running on fully digitized networks PCS will be coming to major urban centers in North America over the next two years. Once all the bugs are worked out, you'll be able to do the windows thing you not really do when used to the dial—only you will be able to do it and move anywhere anytime," says Windows.

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PC vs. console: The gamer's lowdown

If you're a computer gamer, there appears to be one cardinal rule: get all your eggs in one basket.

By MARK SALTZMAN •
 Just the year people have asked "Is the PC better for games or should I just buy a gaming console for my TV?" I've always tried to make the question less fun than my hack is panned up against the wall by my editor. I will attempt to objectively approach a comparison by analyzing the hardware market's affordability and versatility of each.

First off, I consider that despite all pricing fluctuations over the years, and all PCs and consoles are not only sold for completely different as well. However, as a happy gamer, I will be referring to the popular Sony PlayStation and the Sega Saturn as default consoles. I selected these two as they are also perfect systems like the Super Nintendo, a 3DO and the Nintendo 64 (3D Virtual Boy) but space is limited.

For computers, I will only consider PCs that have 486 or Arguably with a Pentium 333 CPU and 16 MB RAM as affordable gaming computer models.

Quarter suckers

Gaming consoles have come a long way from the slow-scrolling, low-resolution, Maritz and Taito of the late 1970s and early 1980s. From up until the middle of this decade, Nintendo and Sega were still ruling the household gaming supremacy. These came the following Sony PlayStation which debuted in September 1995 and controlled its early sales over its competitors more slowly in 3D graphics.

The Sony PlayStation uses a Sony CPU, a 33MHz processor that runs at 33 MHz. Part of the chip's memory bank is allocated to graphic performance as opposed to that for the logic being compared. This is why it will be our taken PC, which contains the 64-bit Intel Pentium chip where 256 KB cache is also a staggered step as a correct link. Don't be misled, however, comparing one CPU to another can be easily become both are caused to highlight different aspects of the gaming experience. When the Pentium chip may be somewhat faster the Sony CPU, it has produced 3D computer graphic software that gives the PlayStation the edge over the PC in 3-D graphic quality and image rendering.

The big difference in hardware between PCs and consoles is that the consoles come with only 2 MB of main RAM (expandable) versus the usual 16 MB with some new Pentium systems. With both pieces dropping for less than

been since the spring, you can even go with 32 MB for as low as \$100.

How do I look?

When analyzing how these games actually look to the player, I have to admit I am caught between two and quality I would be lying if I said I wouldn't love to play my favorite PC games. I would look at a large 19-inch monitor. Although TVs are bigger than the standard 14- to 17-inch monitor, the image quality is sufficient due to the TV's color tone.

Most computer monitors are high-resolution and low-contrast, as opposed to the low resolution, low-contrast display of standard television.

The last three major hardware aspects to question are CD-ROM speed, sound and graphics. The CD-ROM drive has for both the Saturn and PlayStation is 500 KB per second, comparable to a standard PC CD-ROM and most PlayStation consoles ship with 64 or 80 speed CD-ROM drive type.

The sound I have a hard time choosing which gaming platform was better. As I would have to say, game consoles (like the PlayStation) come out on top. The PC, with its 16-bit or 32-bit sound card, can produce 16-bit sound, but you can purchase audio cards to up the sound performance including the ARI.



32-bit controller and joystick by PlayStation.

Stickhandling

Lately the future centers enjoyed with the standard graphic, designed for the PlayStation, ergonomically designed controller is just for action games. The PC, however, has more than any peripheral than either system, whether your preference is to play on a desktop or a laptop, action technology (V) handles throttle and other video game and various other tasks.

Before I purchased my Pentium, I would have said that games that appeared lightning fast on a Sega or the PlayStation were choppy on a 486 or absolutely sluggish on a 386, when played on a PC. But the increasingly affordable, Pentium system now holds their own, and then some (how about a little Duke Nukem 3D in high res 400 x 600 pixels).

Even graphics when PCs have taken a back seat to consoles, the recent trend is gaming for the PC in 3-D environments because their companies, such as Microsoft, Creative

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Classic games crossing

The comparison of actual gaming products for the PC versus other gaming systems is interesting, even more games are now crossing over into each other's platforms. *James E. Case and Power General* were on PC first and then moved over to game optically. Also the *Defenders*, *Superman*, *Jim and Andy* have been on both first, and were recorded for PC release.

David and David's The Road for April and *Mid-October* 1994 is a phenomenal release on all platforms as the first Electronic Arts sports video.

I would have to say that at this point in time speed and action titles on the gaming consoles (mainly the PlayStation) compares to the same games on the PC Computers, though not so much more versatile overall, and many other games of games back to interplay, strategy, war, adventure simulation and puzzle games are much better on the PC.

Furthermore, with the potential of many more ways to add on to PCs incorporating memory addresses such as cheaper RAM and 3-D accelerators (PCI) I would put my money on PCs in all games for the near future.

The hardware line goes up

But the advantage at price and simplicity these gaming consoles have over the PCs is when it comes to large screens or Sony PlayStation will run you approximately \$300 whereas computers are still \$1,000 and that price often depending on your monitor and the most advantage of course that computers allow to attach more than two games but most processing, internet access.



personal and business management, software reference or educational products, other software.

The price of games CD-ROMs are very similar between our competitors, and you can also rent them both.

Finally there is local-to-local gaming for both the PC and for the Saturn (including the Sega Channel) or just one phone to members but a better for the PC at this point due to different means of interactive gaming (on the local-to-local, modern play PC-to-PC direct link networking, and now World Wide Web play with sites such as *Atariopolis* and *SporeWorld* (for *Sega Channel* Games) And there are many more titles for the PC than for all the platforms put together—plus with the PC you can download or play online (downloaded 1 more thousand) of free downloads, *Demomax*, *Java*, or *Network* games from all over the globe.

So in the end the dollar is king. If you're looking for a computer or other action gaming options, and you only have a few hundred dollars I suggest you pick up the Sony PlayStation.

But for a true, versatile gaming experience I have to side with the good old PC. Despite the large price difference, now I feel our gamers have a very strong future in the world of gaming, and I anticipate the emergence of more 3-D rendered environments with the aid of these new acceleration cards on the market.

However, interactive World Wide Web games are becoming more and more exciting, as information videos and other animation programs become readily accessible to all Internet browsers.

So if you are a serious about gaming, as I am, more your bank account can and pick up for upgrade to a higher-end, Platform PC, it's definitely worth it. ♦

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THERE AND BACK AGAIN... HOW YOUR DATA TRAVELS ON THE NET (ON A GOOD DAY)



♦♦ By Alan Chen ♦♦

When *Time* Magazine returned from its adventures, it was he called the story of his adventures (also reported as "The Hidden") *There and Back Again*!

Web page on the Internet perhaps a constant or two among the data people, someone could tell if data could talk or write a tale of a similarly involved journey.

How Internet data, whether a Web page or an email message gets from here to there is a mysterious-looking, process-like understanding it helps to make sense of other systems like who really pays for the Net and why your connection sometimes seems to stall.

Let's see what really happens when I in Vancouver using my modem at home or at work try to connect up to a Web page. My *Time* Magazine's Publisher site in New York City first using my modem I connect to a local Internet Service Provider, one of over 2,500 such services in North America. My modem tries to get a connection at its maximum rate (28,800 bits per second) but depending on the amount of noise on the phone lines will often end up settling for a slower connection.

At the Service Provider I connect to another modem which is connected to a computer connected to a local area network connecting the ISP's bank of computer modems and phone lines. There's one modem per phone line and sometimes all the lines are in use. If I don't get a reply right, I am connected to the ISP's Internet network connecting all their computers at a rate of 10 million bits per second (Mbps), about 500 times faster than the modem connection. I can check my e-mail or download graphics both cases loading at services stored on my ISP's network. But to send mail or use the Web I've got to go out from my ISP onto the Internet itself.

The Internet is a network of networks. Regardless what sort of computers they are they transmit data in a common code: TCP/IP for Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. The TCP part describes how data is broken down into small pieces called packets; each packet is numbered sequentially, stored with other data and sometimes traveling along different routes at the end it is reassembled hopefully in the correct order. If a packet is missing or corrupted TCP will request a repeat.

The IP part gives every data packet its Internet address... a 32-digit number that corresponds to the most Internet-friendly

address that you or I typed. It has Internet addresses like 144.19.17.17 or even 157.140.145.100 (about). One of the computers at my ISP is the Domain Name Server storing a large table that translates the Internet address that I typed into a computer's proper numerical equivalent.

To get out to the Internet my ISP uses a dedicated T1 connection running at 1.54 Mbps, consisting in a larger regional ISP from there my T1/IP packets go through a router, sort of dedicated computer that does nothing but try and figure out the most efficient route to get the data to its destination. From Vancouver on its way to New York the data may go by Seattle or down to Sacramento, traveling along a 41 Mbps T3 connection owned by MCI. Not only is data being exchanged however, despite our sense that the Internet is free, each of those data transmissions is being paid for, as the various Service Providers rent their access from larger companies such as MCI.

While the T3 line usually moves much of the needed backbone, the main transmission route is overlaid on MCI is certainly replacing it with fiber-optic cable capable of 622 Mbps. Moving on the backbone are data mixed with packets from thousands of other users on hundreds of other ISPs, may pass through routers in Denver and Kansas

City on its way to New York. Though passing through a series of progressively smaller Service Providers on its way to its destination, at *Time* Magazine's Publisher Web site, (from there the data needs to get back to me) the data passes through perhaps a different route to arrive.

Amazingly this complex process works correctly most of the time. And while there are sometimes bottlenecks along the way (perhaps on the information superhighway if you'll excuse the cliché) most of the real problems occur at the destination. Here the Publisher are quite popular and if several thousand people are all trying to access it at once it can take a while to connect.

The Web is designed to try to minimize this however... more I'm reading that *Time* Magazine article I am not actually connected to their site Web browser are only actually connected for the few seconds when they are sending or receiving data. Many people can be making data from a site taking turns connecting, before performance starts to degrade.

You can see the route your data takes using the *TraceRoute* utility. Search for *TraceRoute* at a search engine like *HotNets* (<http://www.hotnets.digital.com/>) to get links to Web sites with this program which will show you the journey your data takes from *There and Back Again*. ♦

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APPROACHING MERLIN

•• By Bruce Byfield ••

The Nine Lives of OS/2

Runners of the death of OS/2 circulate every few months. Few of these rumors, however, have resulted in much attention at William Zachariasen's company, his life-long focus at CompuLink.

Zachariasen admits that he has doubted IBM's commitment to OS/2 for months. After attending the IBM Analysts Conference in Toronto on August 7-9, he concluded that IBM's top management has already written off OS/2 as a dead (or at least dying) duck. And CompuLink executives are with one exception far more committed to Windows NT than they are to OS/2. He would be reluctant to discuss OS/2.

Zachariasen's concerns carry weight. The President of CompuLink Research, a computer retail company whose consulting firm, Zachariasen had been one of the few major computer publishers to show knowledge about OS/2. He had considered him to be an OS/2 advocate. Zachariasen, however, saw himself as devoted to truth rather than to a company or product. He believes would shun OS/2 immediately if it were used by major clients. He feared his clients IBM had reduced the budget for developing and promoting OS/2 to just its total base will slowly waver.

PCWeek online was quick to report Zachariasen's comments. I write it has yet to report IBM's response. In a letter to PCWeek which has already been widely circulated on the internet, John W. Thompson, General Manager of Personal Software Products, the IBM division responsible for OS/2, wrote: "IBM is completely committed to the OS/2 Warp family of products. OS/2 has become a cornerstone in our overall family of software products." Customers and readers should notice any doubt.

Two points were quick to point out other information which contradicts Zachariasen's conclusions. Gary IBM's usual licensing agreement, the upcoming release of Warp 4.0 (scheduled under obligation IBM to support the product for the next years—a long time in terms of software development), Microsoft OS/2 and related products produced over a billion dollars of revenue for IBM and development of IBM software is still continuing. For example, on August 25, Logica Inc., a major system integrator and software firm, signed a multi-million dollar contract with the IBM-owned Logica Corporation to help develop the OS/2 Warp 4.0. IBM is also including Value Type literature as an extra in Warp, while charging over \$400 for the Windows 95 version of the same product.

Zachariasen's observations that IBM is focusing on Windows NT development seems correct, and no wonder NT has been one of IBM's most discussed products and IBM has previously had little software for it. But IBM has long been committed to developing for all platforms—a conversation strategy which makes mistakes rare for shareholders.

IBM will never support OS/2 exclusively as the runners of its death will continue. On the other hand, IBM seems to regard OS/2 as a

small but valued part of its corporate strategy. In particular, IBM seems to regard OS/2 as a major source of software innovation. With 42 OS/2 programs appearing on every platform, OS/2 should survive for a few years yet.

Merlin Release Announced

The release of OS/2 Warp version 4.0 codenamed Merlin will be announced on September 29 at the Future Fun. The software is expected to be in stores by September 28.

Merlin, which features a new operating system, July may be the most effective answer to Zachariasen's claim. Besides a redesigned interface, Merlin includes a number of enhancements including support for true type fonts, Plug and Play and Mouse Type. Besides it will also be the first operating system to support Java applets and OpenDoc, while its OpenDoc API extensions will make it easier for developers to port 32 bit Windows programs to OS/2. There is also an unrestricted nature of enhanced OS/2 support.

Merlin will also ship with a CD of business drivers and several hundred megabytes of instant pack applications. The instant pack will include Java Merlin Mail 4.0 as well as Merlin's internet e-mail client. The rest of the instant pack is still unannounced, but is expected to include a demo version of a CD-ROM.

Merlin's estimated price is \$299.50 for the full package, but includes the OS/2 software company is taking reservations for specific releases for IBM's Canadian price are still unannounced.

Netpage for OS/2

The rumors have been flying for months. On August 28th, the long-awaited announcement. Finally came Netpage will develop OS/2 version of its popular internet browser.

"This announcement represents an important strategic agreement for both Netpage and IBM," James Harkins, the president and CEO of Netpage commented. "OS/2 is an operating system that many corporate Web managers want to use."

The deal means that versions of Netpage will now come for versions of OS/2. Operating systems is also means that development will cease on IBM's own Web Explorer.

The announcement was anticipated as early as July 13th, when John W. Thompson of IBM Personal Software Products mentioned while talking in Wellington New Zealand that Merlin would ship with a version of Netpage.

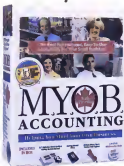
This report widely circulated on the internet was followed by David Matthews, a long-time writer on OS/2 who was quoted as saying that the deal had been signed on May 7th. However, neither IBM nor Netpage would confirm the deal until now.

Netpage 1.0.0 will be immediately ported to OS/2 through the OpenDoc API extensions. It will not only be compatible to versions of Netpage on other platforms, but also support multi-business at Merlin as Mouse Type. Besides.

The next version will be developed entirely within OS/2. As I write, Netpage is scheduled to be in the Internet for developers for the next version.

However, courtesy to Thompson's comment, on page 616

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRAMMAR CHECKER

•• By LUCIA ENGELST ••

Where my brother was to school he said he didn't have to learn how to spell because his secretary would correct his errors. Today's students are much luckier; in any class computer will make the corrections.

Yet this lack in the wrong kind of an electronic machine is amplified. In fact, if you're not sure of your grammar rules, checkers can do more harm than good.

If you're like most computer users, you won't teach formal grammar at school. So it's not surprising if you are bewildered when editors flag a "comma splice" or the "parallel verb."

Good grammar checkers offer more than

errors; they also suggest the correct grammar rules and examples. Just as most computer users do not read their manuals from cover to cover, however, they also do not read all the information in their grammar checker.

Preaching to the choir

And those who do tackle all the explanations may not find enlightenment. Computer manuals seem to be the only people who understand manuals, and grammarians may be the only ones who understand grammar checkers.

But knowing how the program works and what they commonly fix can help you use your spelling and grammar checkers effectively.

Spell checkers check every word against the list in their dictionary. They work especially well for finding a morphological error (if they were) caught incorrectly, such as homonyms (words that sound the same) such as "break" and "brake." They also won't help you catch misspellings in proper nouns. Documents still must be proof read.

Don't go changing

Spell checkers are shipped with US or UK dictionaries while Canadian spelling lies somewhere in between the two standards. You can get away with either, but in the United States, you should work with what your word processor chooses. Many word processors have a lot of preferred spellings that you can use as a guideline.

The most desirable spell checker indeed error is "add." For "a lot," if you spell "a lot" in one word, the computer does not offer the two-word correction unless it suggests "add." Some people just accept the suggestion without realizing that "add" is actually a completely different word.

Grammar checkers run sometimes find spelling errors that spell checkers on their own won't. For example, a grammar checker might catch the "for" in "for."

Grammar checkers try to analyze sentences and identify subjects, verbs, and objects. Sometimes their analysis is dead wrong. For example, one checker looked at the phrase "girl built" and assumed that girl built a verb.

Some checkers point out confusing pairs of words if you use a word like "effort." It will flag the word to ask if you really want to use "affair." This is confusing even for skilled writers; it less does creep into your mind.

The grammar checker cannot tell you which word is right for your sentence. Your only recourse, if you're not sure, is to use a dictionary—a good one. With computer grammar checkers, many and example errors are:

Stay active

Many checkers already warn you when you use the passive voice. In the active voice, the grammatical subject does the action, while the subject is acted upon in a passive sentence. It's the difference between "the writer" (the active "writing" service) and the passive "Lansdown" service are offered.

Active sentences are easier to read and understand, and they move your point along, so it's better to use the active voice. But that does not mean that the passive is wrong. Sometimes it is useful, especially when you want to de-emphasize the doer of the action.

Politically correct grammar checkers may question your use of the word "man." Do you want to use a gender-neutral term like "human being"? Sometimes these suggestions are ludicrous, but they can be consciousness raising.

Some checkers will give you advice on writing style as well as grammar rules. If you write a long sentence or use a more complex sentence, the checker will suggest you revise your work.

Grammar checkers have different tones. Some will phrase their suggestions as merely using words like "consider rewording" and telling you that you "should" avoid a word that is in fact a serious error.

Other checkers are harsh and just say "avoid." These checkers will tell you that a word is a spelling error instead of just advising the word is not in the dictionary.

Confident writers can deal with the nag. Grammar checkers grammar checkers that they know. When the checker has passed a sentence, generally it's when its suggestion is over-analysis or just plain wrong.

What's new one?

The biggest danger lies in over-reliance on a checker. Remember that language is too varied and complex for software to deal with effectively.

Learn to recognize your own writing problems and then use the computer to help you spot them. For example, if you're a writer who uses over the passive voice as many as three of every ten clauses, heed the warning and revise your own prose.

In the end, however, writing skills have to be developed the old-fashioned way. When students ask how they can be better, better writers give this advice: read a lot, read attentively. Read what makes you need to correct and practice your writing.

This may not be the quick fix that most people want, but the computer is not a magic wand and yet offers shortcuts to good writing. ★

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PC TV

PRODUCTS: AN OVERVIEW

• By MELIS WHITE •

When you own a Mac or an old Commodore device combining television and your computer can be both expensive and frustrating. They don't work or play well together.

Nevertheless, there are several practical reasons for combining TV video with computer graphics. In fact, many gamers, for example, can add pictures from your home browser to a personal electronic family album or Web page or can be used in more sophisticated security systems or in electronic slide presentations. And, although storing digital images in home TV video format will run up your hard drive cost, it's the convenience of applications (e.g. ProPainter, PhotoPaint) and the fact you can play back in best compressed-MPEG video files.

I know at least one homebased stock trader with a video-equipped board who checks back and forth between Newsweek CNA and the cable company's stock quotes in a little window on screen. Being able to combine the new technologies to output the results in a large TV or up to four home video cameras and video collection and add interesting clips to a company brochure or promotional video.



the system that weren't there when you bought it—unless you had a constant stream of cash for the dozens of ways of using it as a video platform. Although many computers make PC/TV products, not all of them are compatible with all products associated by the other folks (i.e., computer video cameras).

Below, competing products are made by the same company (such as ATI Technologies in Montreal) and purchased at roughly the same time. There is no guarantee the two (or four) will work together. I recently met with a clerk with all of the hardware suppliers and have a long session talk with the vendor before you buy. I don't want you to talk about how "cheap" some of the applications handled with these products unless they drive software can because in the presence of other software video devices, audio combined (or better yet, stereo) Windows DLL drivers (usually follow) to start to insert binary data and control TV video programs for use on a mission.

Having a few files of what you want to do before you head out will also help. Because I wasn't able to turn up any products that did everything. While several products will allow you to not motion, place video in a window and overlay computer graphics on it, to handle with these cameras they don't necessarily allow you to store motion on camera with camera for channel hopping.

I want to list in brief any products that would do both TV-to-PC, video input, and PC-to-TV output. These boards are a huge, not category.

Hardware

Ready or, take two

In the latest post price for \$17.99, post with an ongoing in fact, a breaking on the spot of the image monitor and the camera you get to work with them of the best quality products are for professional use, and carry a correspondingly high price. But for home-level products, we've ultimately settled on a price list at \$11.99.

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Videoconferencing: Getting it together



**Educator
in a Box**
Sandra Margulies

telephone lines and a global community of like-minded colleagues.

Distance education—the process of creating and providing access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated—is nothing new. In fact, the very 25 years students enrolled in correspondence courses have proved it was true. Radio, television, audio tapes and radio broadcasts or watched television screens in groups of higher learning. Now, more sophisticated computer systems deliver information to students at any time of day in the privacy of their own home.

In this column I focus on group videoconferencing, a relatively new yet burgeoning offspring of distance education.

Getting up

Imagine yourself seated in a typical classroom. At the front of the room is a large screen monitor with a camera mounted on top. First or first Internet, students hang from the ceiling in the back and sides of the room. Every few rows, students sit on a computer, built-in microphone and a panel with several modules. There is also a light cone located at the front of the class connected to the teacher's computer and what looks like a computer model overhead projector on the screen's monitor screen.

This was the scene that greeted me on a recent tour of Bell Canada's Centre for Distance Education located in George Brown College's Cawston Campus. A joint venture between Bell Canada, Brown and Oklahoma's Telepresence Institute for distance education, the Centre showcases the latest in state-of-the-art technology while delivering model courses in distance education.

Providing Ontario universities have also explored the benefits of this live interactive video-based medium. Western Ontario and Waterloo all deliver group videoconferencing services.

What's the point?

Group videoconferencing brings people

of different disciplines unable to offer courses due to lack of qualified staff or facility restrictions, play into existing distance education systems. Game developers and specialists in the areas of science, art and literature are "invited" to address a group of students.

Collaborative projects between schools encourage the exchange of information and communication between diverse cultures. Experts involved internationally in groups of remote specialists. Teachers-in-training are observed and critiqued continuously by senior teachers. Master teachers (students-only) interact groups of diverse teachers in learning (students).

Does it work for education?

But to echo the words of communication guru Marshall McLuhan video is by nature a passive medium. Web students viewed on a day of one-way television must to it is a learning situation. How much web conferencing activities shape this two-way video connection to make it a rich, interactive world?

According to North's first manager of the Bell Centre, courses are designed to reflect the effect of high technology. Participants are asked a pre-assessment welcome letter before the center begins. There are team-building activities. Student colleagues may get acquainted through short video tours of each other's neighbourhoods.

Videoconferencing involves a ten-year-old American-based team. Founder, creator and executive for the Centre is Don Parker and Mike Parker, a married couple combine their educational technology with education and communication experience in product material that creates content does not take a feedback to technology.

Since videoconferencing cuts the risk of becoming stuck a glossed way to focus long distance, the Parkers preach a varied use of people's natural. A variety of roles of "telling stories" quickly leads to debate. The challenge remains to incorporate other ways to deliver meaning. Courses are computer-generated presentations, video clips, collaborative use of electronic white boards, and object-driven through the use of a classroom. Hundreds of these models serve to vary the pace of a group videoconferencing.

Big brother?

Students play a big role in classroom design. Teachers and instructors need to be closely linked with microphones and audio stored by remote cameras. And a month full of high-tech equipment can be an intimidating sight.

CUPE in Canada first quickly moving to launch in the last year of videoconferencing

across. The only Canadian systems integrator and manufacturer of videoconferencing technology to date, CUPE Institute exists at the University of Montreal, George Brown College, the University of Western Ontario and Simon Fraser University.

Videoconferencing must be both to enhance learning. Students don't want to drive their fingers on the desk as they wait for a response to their questions. Audio links must be clear and intelligible. Background noise, heavy screen images, poor audio or video quality. They must be crisp and distortion-free.

Best-equipped videoconferencing rooms must offer flexible modes of interaction. Delivery (the focus) may be large at the position addressing both immediate and remote classrooms. Then they might place an object on the discussion board for a high-tech touch and tell a short story clip might be sent. For the final, perhaps a live virtual interactive session with audio or distance education using an electronic white board.

Automatic management of group videoconferencing systems practice and knowledge of the power of electronic media interaction may temporarily down the role of face-to-face as they focus their way around screen photos and video messages.

Eventually technology becomes just another way of delivering the message—adding one to education, away from chalk and blackboard methods?

Send letters to a North-based computer store and computer, best located in Quebec, to inquire.

INFO BOOK

For a one-stop site on distance education, contact us at <http://info.vcu.edu/~dms/eduinfo.html>. Here you'll find a directory of online videoconferencing, web-based publications, the distance education directory from the University of Illinois, the World Campus that is world-wide today of higher education, access to the Web, plus references to books, articles, and papers.

The Canadian links at <http://info.vcu.edu/~dms/eduinfo.html> are sponsored by the Canadian Association of Distance Education.

Distance Education mailing lists by topic are available. Also see Distance Group, CUPE Institute, and the International Distance Forum for Distance Learning 1995-1996. info@vcu.edu Online computer <http://info.vcu.edu/~dms/eduinfo.html>

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Cover Notebooks: THE HEAVY HITTERS

Notebooks today are just as powerful and fully featured as desktop PCs. Are they losing portability behind?

• By LYNN CAMERON •

My first notebook computer weighed 4 pounds, had 12 KB RAM (I expanded it from the base 16 KB), an 8.9-in. 400-candlepower monochrome LCD screen, an 800-MHz processor and no disk drive. I saved files on an audio cassette and used a speedy 300-baud modem for communications.

This was state of the art in 1984. And just over two years later, look where we are. All of the notebooks in this roundup are quite capable of becoming replacements for a desktop machine with hard drives in the gigabyte range and memory capacities that would have got a minicomputer in shame in my first notebook's day.

The hard drive in the mainline notebook allows users to store a notebook yet still have personalized systems. And if a machine malfunctions, if the disk drive isn't the fault, components can be switched into another computer while the sick machine is getting fixed.

Today's notebooks offer 800- to 600-video- or better-on-demand TTY (also-fax) transmitters, color screens. They can speedily transmit pictures—last fall just witnessed a 150-MB image for mobile use—over a PCJ bus and store multiple support. SoundBlaster-compatible sound cards and enhanced for wireless communications with peripherals.

CD-ROM drives are no longer a luxury either—they're almost a necessity today's software as they're included in many mid- and high-end notebooks. Panasonic has even introduced a notebook with a removable optical drive that doubles as a CD reader (the PIONEER drive for under \$100.00).

Most of the machines with CD-ROM drives in them are by leaving out the floppy drive. So to increase the CD-ROM drive and dip a cassette drive into its place. Some vendors also use this bay for devices as diverse as extra batteries and TV tuners.

Caring the point

When a tracked device runs the "standard" notebook pointing device, more the split is between trackballs (those little balls on the keyboard that act like mini-joysticks) and touch pads. Each means more getting used to and many of the users I deal with use standard desktop mice while they're on the office line. One friend told me with touch pads the "cursor" sticks occasionally—yes, she says—she gets from the pad after dragging and dropping something, and when you attempt to move the cursor she has to drag the mouse when it's in the office.

go with it. This is not a closed-source problem so I suspect it's possible to fix the technology.

On the plus side, touch pads are just pointed up by the user and sticky fingers. They may become unpleasant to touch but they'll still work. And trackballs, although they're affected by environmental changes, are far less likely than touch pads.

All we can say about battery technology is that it's holding its own. The new lithium-ion batteries standard in most high-end notebooks can power the unit for 2 to 3.5 hours, depending on which device you're using. (Think: Most Hybrid—NBA—in the second choice. Apple's Mac/Book is a favorite to look the battery market and the PC designers, since the number and complexity of power-management components has increased, just about per charge almost twice or less constant.)

It will wait I ran a machine on battery during a 10-hour conference phone trip, or in a 10-hour meeting, though. New technologies like Lithium Polymer are under development.

What a card

PC Card (PCMCIA) slots are still critical for notebook power sources and 3000 adapters and new notebooks have built into using the speed of Card. Be careful about these slots. If you're using Windows 3.11 through there's a glitch in one of the common chips used to let cards talk to the computer that can prevent some cards from working under Windows 3.11 (Windows 95 uses a different mechanism, so it works fine).

My old Toshiba 1990 notebook still has some major advantages over these designs: replaceable, replaceable—8½" half the weight. Today's systems give the user a between 8 and 8 pounds and to the time you add extra like an A/C adapter you're looking quite a load! We weighed the heaviest of the bunch we reviewed (the Toshiba) in its camera carrying bag with separate floppy drive, cables and other miscellanea—11.5 pounds!

Shipping bags that are much heavier as you can afford (portable Extended Life Carps, or 2005—14 MB should be the minimum you consider when Windows 95 is pre-installed on all of the PC machines and it's less than 500 MB for the hard drive—yes, the largest you can try to settle for less than 500 MB because applications and operating systems are still huge these days (that's why they come on CD-ROM).

Radio should be 30-60 hours/charge. For compatible. If full-motion video is a priority.

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Try out the keyboard to make sure it meets and operates just fine—keyboard guidance is a matter of taste. And check for a Kensington lock slot to specially reinforced casing that secures a lock-and-keylocking, adding to you can't do this expensive toy when it's unwanted.

New lots have a brief look at some of the recent crop of laptop notebooks, ranging from (unfortunately) the Compaq Armada and Digital Vortex Ultra II to more available look for reviews in future issues.

Mac durability

The anti-accident cushion we tested at the 8.2-pound Macintosh PowerBook 1600.



High wired!

grievous maintenance, and even immolation. For example, this year he was the cost called on to scale the Royal Bank Plaza building in Toronto, where a four-meter piece of metal was found dangling, dangerously close to high up above.

With ropes and harnesses and no fear of heights, this man did a week's work in one day saving companies money by pointing out, measuring, and solving problems before they get out of control.

"By the end of the day, I can point out a document, give you a diagram, or show you the image via a laptop," says Kinsell.

Need a 300-megabyte notebook? Get a old stock on a hot hot stock. According to Kinsell, there's no one else in Canada who can do the job just as quickly and efficiently. Kinsell's long-term vision is to coordinate the first urban high-rise construction and repair work, which would provide emergency response and post-accident investigation using wireless communications and mobile laptop systems. It's a vision, however, the high-rise security force he claims "real problems don't come in from the ground."

With a laptop, Kinsell can do what he does best: climb anywhere—in long to a laptop note." "You can find me with a laptop on the roof on a rope on a rack on a rack on a roof on a rope and in between," says Kinsell.

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• • By MARY GILLES • •

Doesn't every day bring back memories from one of this month's 300 issues, *Macworld* magazine?

"No way! This is not just *Macworld*! This is a great book that says just what I need! I've been waiting for the showing of this month's *Macworld* cover."

Kinsell makes a living taking his laptop digital camera, video and other laptop peripherals to clients high in the air. He's been there for the cover of the *Macworld* magazine, taking photos of the cover of the *Macworld* magazine.

Compaq, Motorola, IBM, and PowerPC.

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formery seems total enough, and the Lithium Ion battery provides 5 to 6 hours of computing time per charge. The V500s costs about \$4,100.

Small size not changed

The Angel 500 also known as the "Performer" is from Catalytic Advanced Industries in Minnetonka (1-800-322-8435 or 763-536-8376) is a 7-speed bike they've managed to squeeze in a 120 lbs. Position 16, 140 KWH, 212 lbs. recommended. Small bike.

with a 3.5-inch floppy drive and a 5.25-inch ROM drive simultaneously available. The 12.1-inch TFT RGB + GUN display is clear and bright, the pointing device is a standard mouse (also SunSoft-compatible) and there's also a TFT-RGB VGA-compliant internal port plus the usual slots. Performance was pleasantly accessible.

The keyboard is fairly standard, and comfortable to type on. A Windows 95 keyboard is optional. Battery life is average, as a rule.

Price savings—there are 5000 books on Amazon you can buy a bulkier but powerful 15.5-inch battery pack that clips onto the back of the machine. The ProSeries as configured lists for \$4,997. Best price is \$3,999. For an even discount, deliver the ProSeries (model 5300) across with a screen that starts out at \$229, paid for an overhead projector.

Lauren Williams, *Williams College*

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46200-MHz, 46300-MHz, 46400-MHz, 46500-MHz, 46600-M

MSI KVM Quadway—ATI's latest KVM is an upgrade to 16:100; a 1.2-GB hard drive with 1-bay; 11.5-inch TFT screen with 800-x-600 resolution. The pointing device is a touchpad.

Two stress speakers would be the politest sound quality is adequate, but there are just

The hard drive is removable, and the quad-speed CD-ROM drive may be replaced with a 3.5-inch floppy drive. Check a second battery in, and MTZ claims up to 18 hours of average use.

Items include a 115 Kbps iSDA-compliant infrared port, the small-world portable external video, and keyboard/mouse. There's also a game port, and a connector for the optional port replicator.

The keyboard's functional keys are arranged rather oddly with the Insert/Delete keys up in the top right corner. But in corner keys are in a convenient, inverted T configuration: the Shift, Tab/Backspace, and Enter keys are all of a good size, as is the special Windows 95 function keys, and its touch-sensitive area.

One misadventure: Pylip is sent to the right
 South bay, and I hope nothing is too misadventure.

The Accanto F won't be the fastest performer in the bunch, but it held its own well. Prices were as around \$4,500.

They are

Del's Nationals LM F1500 comes loaded for less with a 133-MHz Pentium processor, 32 MB RAM, 55.0-MB hard drive, and quad-speed CD-ROM (included in Volume EX Sale Full). See EX-300.

The bright 12.1-inch active-matrix TFT color display is clear and easy to read. Stereo speakers live in the top corners of the key board while a touchpad occupies the corner of the notebook.

All of the review machines have dual PC Card OPERATOR slots, but Dell has put its card-reader buttons for the first on opposite sides of the slot, making it much easier to remove one card without accidentally popping the other. The slots are protected by shutters, rather than the usual door that flips down, and other users off.

The keyhole is a semi- ^{14}C rich deep-sea AAT, but it is better organized, with Hoxa, Ect, Pdp, and Pdxs maintaining close the right order. Ints and Baroque keys seem to be as large as full life but they are double sized.

Watermelon slices around standard ports plus UPS Kipsy 100A raised out the Lammie's basic batteries and 40 lithium ion battery supplies enough power to run them all for a solid 3 hours with a bit of juice left over (be careful not to use that keep the battery performs low as it lives).

Horse pastures, large: many

The Hewlett-Packard Compaq 5000LT is a T-shaped, 3.50 or 3.85 MHz Pentium with 160 RAM and a 1.45 GB hard drive; its removable floppy drive can be replaced with an optional CD-ROM drive. The 800 x 600 13.1-inch TFT display has external brightness and contrast controls rather than the function-key adjustments used by the others. Other

The IMA port is the newer 4-bits device and there are connectors for NTSC, PAL and S-Video as well as the usual outputs (including four-line Pro-compatible 154k video output).

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Cover



ATI Bareilly 750

erible. One time you plug it in to the parallel port if its key is occupied by the CD-ROM or an optional external battery. The keyboard has large flat keys that make it ideal for users with big hands and its flat is most convenient than I would have expected. The pointing device is a touch stick.

Performance is not earthshaking, but quite acceptable as with battery life. Prices start at \$6,170.

Think thin

The IBM ThinkPad 540's claim to fame is its size. It's a desktop-size box (1.4 inches "thick") that weighs just over 4 pounds yet it has a built-in 12.1-inch 800 x 600 screen, 128 MB Random Access Memory (RAM) and 650 MB hard drive. The floppy drive pops into a port on one side.

The pointing device is a touchstick, which slide and snap is designed to prevent finger slippage when dedicated mouse. I found it a bit too sensitive to the point of distraction.

Audio hardware is 16-bit SoundBlaster Pro compatible and there's an external (detachable) for volume control. The ports include the usual suspects, particularly a sub-line comes that comes completely off-line it will sleep just as about order. There's a connection on the bottom that mates with an optional docking station.

Performance and battery life were both indifferent. Given a 100-MHz machine like in made off by comparison, but the ThinkPad 540 is a better performer. It's about portability and portable it is. It is on light due when I reviewed the box, I thought they'd forgotten to put the computer into it. Prices start at \$3,899.

Nice surprise(s)

The NEC Versa 6200H came along when I was going unimpressed and, and it was an unexpected delight. It's a 4.8-pound, 13.5-inch Pentium with 16 MB RAM, 1.35 GB



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Technology Sector Stocks

Wall Street Highlights

By Thomas Klein

Technology stocks rebounded from July 1994 lows and money flowed back into the "hot" high-tech technology companies. The trend of money flowing out of the established names and into the larger companies is due more to a late bull market cycle. When the market appears to be approaching a peak, money flows into more defensive companies. Small caps do not want to be buying speculative investments when the stock market is volatile. For the technology industry, this means that money flows to the well-established market leaders. In this market, it is one of the big names that do not want to miss out on the money. To reach profitability, it takes the 20% contribution to Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard, both companies disappointed with earnings last year and the market punished the stocks to one day to secure investors when the market is uncertain. For the short term, this means that stock companies will be under very close scrutiny. Companies will have to exceed earnings and growth expectations and any shortfalls will be met with severe sell-offs. For investor companies that are in the development stage, viable capital will be sought. Many tech companies may have to be prepared to go public as early as the IPO (initial public offering) market to improve. The dilemma is that many young companies need an infusion of cash to remain competitive. Undoubtedly the value of these companies is being tested, and if they are not successful, they will be forced to seek other ways to raise capital.

The flow with the stock market is that it places individual values and then compares an stock company. The reality is that the IPO market could not have the potential of the

Internet. Imagine the difficulty for Wall Street analysts to place a value on a name in the industry as long as online money companies with quarterly performance and no revenue growth have a 10% stock share. It is more value placed on management and the knowledge of the employees. In looking at the human resources of a company, a strong position of value can be achieved. Strategic alliances between companies in the industry is key to defining who the key players will be and to what devices they will be heading. Money and the ability to react quickly by changing trends will be a key factor. In technology, it is not only to survive and grow. The competition of the industry defines that there will be winners and losers.

I have looked at the value of the sector and highlighted a number of Wall Street's growth. It is important for companies in the industry to grasp the perception the market places on different high-tech sectors. The market provides the investment dollars and therefore has a strong influence on the direction and success of the various categories of the industry.

Computers, PCs and Peripherals

The PC industry is undergoing a fundamental structural change as PC companies compete for market share in an increasingly commodity-like and rapidly consolidating market. The keys for companies to become successful include: increasing brand awareness, improving distribution, dealer and reseller programs, and increasing market penetration. The industry is expected to grow to 17% or about \$1 billion units worldwide. Reduced PC unit growth can be attributed to market saturation and sluggish global economies. In conjunction with slowing growth, the industry is experiencing intense downward price pressure. Aggressive pricing in the industry should continue as we are approaching the Christmas season and dealers expect gross margins to decline. Companies should maintain solid cost controls to increase productivity to supplement the lower technology margins. It is important to ensure that demand is matched with ongoing marketing, customer support.

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Internet & Internet

The word is getting out. Large corpora-

tion have realized the value of setting up an internet and the word is an epidemic. The internet business is exploding now that some companies are able to coordinate their internal information and distribute better than they ever have before. The use of Web browser technology has proven that it can increase productivity and efficiency thereby increasing profits. The demand for internet working solutions will have the highest growth rate in the technology industry for the balance of 1996 and into 1997. Investors will reward companies that manage their growth and increase market share. Look for the market leaders to make online level acquisitions in order to achieve market dominance.

Internet related companies exploded on to the market last year coinciding with a period of high flying IPOs most of which have fallen back to earth. Web Sites is maintaining a low and low attitude with the majority of the internet generating website companies providing infrastructure solutions. The market is looking for companies that can improve speed. The growing lack of bandwidth exposes a lot of constraints on developing interactive content. Therefore any solutions that are proven to increase speed would be tremendously rewarded. Security is the other major issue that concerns the financial viability of the Internet. In order to capitalize on commercial applications of the net advances in the security of information is vital. There are numerous companies that provide security solutions for the Internet and Intranet but there are no clear market leaders. Investors are looking for a company to break-out and take a dominant position.

Computer Servers

Mainframe demand is in a steady decline but the market has demonstrated that there is still a need for large scale mainframes with dissimilar growth prospects. UNIX server demand remains strong, particularly at enterprise server level. Spending on enterprise computing architectures continues to grow fueling the demand for UNIX servers. The mainframe market has reached a point of saturation with the shift to CIMS systems.

Semiconductors

Semiconductor stocks are expected to enjoy further some pressure after the release of the July book to bill ratio. The number ratio is at 31 and 75 was expected. This figure indicates that semiconductor makers received 94% in orders for every \$100 worth of chips they shipped. New chip orders in July were \$2.61 billion down 5.1% from 2.5% orders in June and down 17.4% from July 1995 bookings of \$4.11 billion. The numbers might be a little deceiving because of

two factors the falling price for memory chips, particularly for DRAMs and the slow memory weakness for orders. However there does seem to be a fall in demand compared to this time last year. The fall in demand is quickening service, Web sites as an indicator that the sector is headed for recession but either they are leading or a prevailing this quarter.

Web sites provides the investment capital but the entry is that the corporate use of technology will be the driving force of new products. Large corporations are looking for better applications that will dramatically benefit the bottom line. They like to see the weakness and this is where most of the technology battle will be won or lost. My suggestion is technology business owners

and investors is to invest in products of companies that will reach the net and deep pockets of the corporate world. For investors and speculators attempt to find out what the needs of large companies are and then find applications that can fill those requirements. Doing this is an expensive venture from John Maird. He can be reached by email johnmaird@comcast.net.

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Microsoft Encarta 95

Price: \$79 (\$35 rebate for upgrade)

Rating: 3

Score: simple word total: 10,800 possible answers: 51 per cent. Fun: 52, video: 35

Encarta is based on the fairly basic Fun: 60. Microsoft's Encarta 95. While the interface is easier, the measured quality of the content is not as strong as the Company's product and will not take a student as far through high school. Its clever multimedia components might, however, make it a better choice for younger students for whom acquisition is usually more important than content.

While a Windows 3.1 product, the interface has been radically redesigned to look like a Windows 95 screen. This redesigned version however runs satisfactorily now. It also fails to correct the direction of colors in playing a video.

Its search mechanism has been improved or so full logical search to make it the best of the encyclopedia has not as good as several standard CD-ROM products. It is the only one of the group that allows students to keep electronic notes with an article. Contact: 1-800-950-5055

Encarta's Interactive Encyclopedia 1995 Edition

Price: \$39.95

Rating: 4

Score: simple word total: 14,000 possible answers: 28 per cent. Fun: 50, video: 70

Providing better written content and the most words at the lowest price makes this a very attractive buy. The interface is clear, doesn't clutter with an electronic online, more where students can get their own multimedia term papers together. Encarta's multimedia term papers together. Encarta's multimedia term papers together. Encarta's multimedia term papers together.

Buying a complete encyclopedia is a waste of money and time. Encarta's multimedia term papers together. Encarta's multimedia term papers together. Encarta's multimedia term papers together.

The search interface while adequate isn't behind the flexibility of the competition. The content has not been updated noticeably since the 1995 version. Perhaps this reflects the transfer of ownership from Compton to Solari International. Contact: 1-800-227-5055

Britannica CD 2.0

Price: \$11.99

Rating: 1

Score: simple word total: 17,000 possible answers: 36 per cent. Fun: 54, video: 40. The excellent Encyclopedia Britannica on CD would seem like an automatic top choice simply because of its thorough content. However, the interface is not as easy to use as the others. Contact: 1-800-227-5055

The Britannica company delivers as good as both the Internet and CD (Windows 95 version). Consequently they use the popular Web browser. Although the look is through Microsoft on the CD is a real-time version. Searches are limited to 120 hits with no choice to ask for number 120.

If you want to find a biography, the per-

son's name presents no challenge. However, to do so, we could not guarantee a listing of the 50 American State Capitals. There are just too many topics outside the month State and Capital.

In comparison with competing CD encyclopedias, the Britannica CD demonstrates how inefficient an information delivery method the Internet can be.

There is no video, pictures or sound down after although there are 198 national flags and a total of 2,000 video images.

While the volume and quality of information the Britannica CD offers, the interface may be too low because we limited hits to ten articles and we are not certain we found all the relevant parts. Love of reading is one



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we can't list either considering the system do not hold back on advanced technology. This CD is for the true scholar and a high achiever who needs to be inspired by a few videos.

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Contact: 1-800-315-0129

1995 Canadian Encyclopedia Plus

Cost: \$79

Rating: 1

Features: sample word total: 5,000; pictures, with sources 35 per cent; French 50 videos 40.

This Windows product can't be run for Canadian content and has not incorporated the 6-volume Encyclopedia or the 10-year-old content on its own as a general home reference.

The interface design is greatly improved, but it's not as easy to use as the old version. While there is no window to monitor the display of one article in real-time. While there is no window to monitor the display of one article in real-time.

The product delivers a number of which are only provided for traditional fully logical searches but also lets the user type in queries and get answers. Windows 95 for CD-

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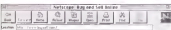


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CLOSING THE LIABILITY WINDOW

•• By Rick Adams, F.C.A. ••

Individuals and/or businesses often discover that they are liable for things that:
 1) They did not know they were liable for;
 2) They would not have been liable for if they had properly assessed their affairs;
 3) Because of the liability laws they are a net gain for them although they were innocent of any act for which they should have been liable.

This subject comes to mind because of a development I had in early with a prospect of a business. This individual is having to defend against a lawsuit to which he does have three counter-claims. To defend himself he is looking at several thousand dollars in legal fees. It is possible that although the business has done nothing wrong, the other side believes that the cost of legal fees may make him not going to pay a lawsuit seems to avoid the eyes of others. What is it that you should take steps to make it clear to the public, that although you may share offices or you may even own one of the same entities, if you are partners not to one of you the employee of the other. None of these steps are:

1) Separate business cards. If you are using a company name on business cards it may imply to the public that you are one business.
 2) Separate mail notices.
 3) Separate banking.
 4) Specific bank accounts.
 5) Written agreements with customers or clients should specify who the contractors are. If the business does not involve clients to express should clearly document the business relationship.
 6) If you are involved in a joint contract with somebody you will probably be liable for each others actions on that contract. That means, it clear that it is a separate joint

venture for each other's action.

What is often important for these scenarios is not the perception of the two parties that they are the owner of the business but the perception of the other public which might have to deal with either one of them. In this particular case, a copy is being sent both the person they claim to be responsible for the loss and the proprietor who was operating a separate business. If the plaintiff's contention that it was all one business. In other words the plaintiff perceived that either the two parties were partners or that the proprietor was the employee. Consequently both are being sued.

In today's business environment either sharing, antiquations are quite common as are unshared consulting contracts. In these instances the appearance may be different from the reality. If this is the case a third party may not have an appearance. It is often difficult to find a way to make it clear to the public, that although you may share offices or you may even own one of the same entities, if you are partners not to one of you the employee of the other. None of these steps are:

1) Separate business cards. If you are using a company name on business cards it may imply to the public that you are one business.
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 5) Written agreements with customers or clients should specify who the contractors are. If the business does not involve clients to express should clearly document the business relationship.
 6) If you are involved in a joint contract with somebody you will probably be liable for each others actions on that contract. That means, it clear that it is a separate joint

venture, but the other parties and at such you are not responsible for each other's actions or other contracts. You might also be able to sue into your contract that you are only responsible for any errors or omissions caused by yourself and not any caused by your co-venturer.

7) If you are a proprietorship consider some protection. While incorporation will not protect the business against action it may provide some protection for the personal assets of the owners. In this case I was doing about the business in a proprietorship and at such the proprietor's personal assets are also exposed. In the past some have recommended incorporation to clients as part of a planning process. If the clients become well below a certain level a proprietorship was used as the cost of maintaining a corporation would eliminate the potential tax savings. It was in the incorporation business world in which we lost incorporation makes sense for many small businesses that have traditionally been proprietorships.

8) When liability limitations in your all other matters. In this instance for one you need and understand your policy. If your situation changes or you are entering into a joint contract with somebody you should notify your agent in writing to ensure that you will be covered. In the case I outlined the proprietor left about by her business partner when the lawsuit that it would not defend in this action because she was not covered for the services of a third party. And the been aware of the cover she could have had her own coverage, not her liability policy for this type of situation.

9) Maintain documentation. Having documents become at best possible for maintaining documentation is one of the best practices for protecting your business.

This list is a *not* a complete checklist. It will be better to *pro*phylactic than *not* take steps to ensure you are not taking unexpected responsibility for the actions of another party.

Because liability can come in many guises, circumstances I would like to give a further example of how this type of problem could arise. A company vendor may be taking in an independent consultant in his office or renting space in an independent consultant and a customer comes in to buy a computer. The story vendor suggests they talk to the consultant about installing the application, will come and modifying it to the customer's needs. The consultant may be an independent sales business but if that is not made clear and documentary evidence kept the customer could sue the vendor for the actions of the independent consultant. Even if the case has no merit the store owner may go through the agony of defending against a lawsuit.

If you are an employee you may be able to structure your affairs in that your efforts are protected. Have business then becomes a much less likely target for a broken lawsuit. I am not suggesting you unilaterally should be your efforts to avoid taking responsibility for your actions in a business context you are not your own boss. If you are an employee you are not your own boss. If you are an employee you are not your own boss. If you are an employee you are not your own boss. If you are an employee you are not your own boss.

Rick Adams, F.C.A., is a partner in the Attorney firm of Allen Gendreau, Daniel Anderson. He may be reached at 314-477-1171 or 314-775-5272 or e-mail rick.adams@compuserve.com.

LEADERSHIP TEAM, PAGE 35—
 seems Microsoft has the CPU will not be shipped as part of the new business plan. Instead it will be available shortly after the new release from Dell, Compaq, and IBM with their own (these are my own) and http://www.ibm.com/.

An interesting comment on the net is that even though Microsoft's Internet Explorer may have been associated with the development of the IE6.0, it is not the case that the company had previously owned.

Unleashed 3.0

Seachange Systems has released version 3.0 of its Internet Explorer utility package and newsletter.

From the first release, Unleashed has been working on the Internet Explorer utility package. Because the utility doesn't do anything, it is not a utility. It is often used to increase the performance of the browser.

Unleashed 3.0 is still a major release to buy Microsoft. However version 3.0 offers other useful enhancements to well. They include:
 •enhanced support for the Internet Explorer
 •enhanced support for the Internet Explorer
 •enhanced support for the Internet Explorer
 •enhanced support for the Internet Explorer

Documentation has also been improved.

The manual has been rewritten in order to be more user friendly. The manual has been rewritten in order to be more user friendly. The manual has been rewritten in order to be more user friendly. The manual has been rewritten in order to be more user friendly.

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Microsoft Releases

On August 14, Microsoft Systems released another new software package, the Internet Explorer 3.0. The Internet Explorer 3.0 is a new version of the Internet Explorer 3.0. The Internet Explorer 3.0 is a new version of the Internet Explorer 3.0. The Internet Explorer 3.0 is a new version of the Internet Explorer 3.0.

Microsoft did not explain the delay but giving points are the Internet Explorer 3.0. The Internet Explorer 3.0 is a new version of the Internet Explorer 3.0. The Internet Explorer 3.0 is a new version of the Internet Explorer 3.0. The Internet Explorer 3.0 is a new version of the Internet Explorer 3.0.

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New Desktop Version

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